



School of Liberal Arts
WGST 200
WOMEN AND SOCIAL CHANGE
WINTER 2025
3 Credits
Course Outline

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| INSTRUCTOR | Dr. Shawkat Shareef | OFFICE HOURS | THURSDAYS 11 am-1 PM |
| OFFICE | A 2017 | CLASSROOM | A2605 |
| E-MAIL | sshareef@yukonu.ca | CLASS TIME | WEDNESDAYS: 9-11.50 AM |
| TELEPHONE | 867 456 8604 | CRN | 20108 |
| | | DATES | JAN. 9- APRIL 14, 2025 |
| Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770 | | | |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the concepts, analyses and strategies employed by women in their efforts to improve their collective and individual status as members of historical and contemporary Canadian society. Course material covers the historical struggle for the establishment of basic rights in the "first wave" of the women's movement (turn of the Century), through the slow-moving changes of the 20th Century, to the contemporary struggle within and outside of the women's movement towards diversity and inclusion.

Prerequisites: WGST 100 and WGST 101 or 6 credits of SOCI, NOST or PSYC. ENGL 100 and ENGL 101 strongly recommended.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a) Widen their knowledge and appreciation of the diversity and range of women's activism toward change
- b) Learn and apply the feminist approach to the understanding of various socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that have gender implications
- c) Demonstrate their understanding through critical thinking and the writings of the local and global issues which influence women locally and globally
- d) Develop a thorough understanding of the current state of women's studies in Canada, both institutionally and practically.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

In-person classes will consist of lectures on and discussions of the texts, readings and films/video clips specified in the course syllabus. However, some of the resources for this course will be presented through Moodle, e.g., assignments, discussion forums and/or exams etc. Having said that, this class is based on predetermined timetable for assignments and exams. **Do note that this is not a self-paced course.**

EVALUATION

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Discussion participation | 5% |
| Midterm Exam | 25% (March 5, 9-11.30 am , in class) |
| Final Exam | 40% (April 9, 9-11.30 am Moodle) |
| Assignments: 3 in total | 30%, (10% for each assignment): due February 16, March 23, and April 6) |
| Total | 100% |
| | |

Discussion and Participation: 5 %

Participation in class is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Discussion forums offer students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to give more than their fair share. Discussion and participation worth 5% of final grade and is graded based on the number and frequency of a student's participation in the class and Moodle discussion. However given the nature of sociological theories and other topics that will be covered in the lectures and in the discussion forum, a student's performance in participation will be judged by:

1. QUALITY OF THE DISCUSSION (to ensure quality, student's attendance in class lectures and following of reading materials are pivotal)
2. FREQUENCY OF THE DISCUSSION (responding to discussion forum question by posting one's own post is not enough to ensure high participation points, rather reading others' posts and responding to them is very important)
3. CONSISTENCY IN CONTRIBUTION (regular contributions in the discussion forums by chapters are important, sporadic contributions will fetch low participation scores).

Students will also write a number of short assignments through practicing reflexive commentaries, demonstrating their understanding of theories about different aspects of human society. There are no points assigned to these practice reflexive commentaries, but performance on these short practice assignments (both completion and quality) will be added to the overall participation grade as a percentage. Also, practice reflexive commentaries will help stimulate the discussions the forums. For more details, see below.

Midterm Exam: 25%

There is one midterm exam that weighs 25% of the final grade. The midterm will be based on long and short essay topics from the course text book and other resources used in the class. Midterm exam will be held in class as per the schedule mentioned above. Students can bring their laptops to write the answers, edit the answers using Grammarly etc. before submitting them online on the Moodle within the time mentioned for the midterm.

Final Exam: 30%

Final exam is worth 40% of the total weight of the final grade. Final exam is based on the course materials that are covered in the course (including URL link-based information, extra articles posted on the Moodle, text book) and will use long and short essays. The final exam will be non-cumulative.

NOTE: All exams schedules are strictly time sensitive and no extension will be granted except for extenuating circumstances in which cases the student will have to provide valid proof.

Assignments: 30%

There will be **THREE** reflexive commentary assignments and they worth 30% of the final grade. The topics for the assignments are chosen by the professor based on the text, and/or discussion forum, video clips etc. See below for details about assignments.

The **length of each assignment** should not exceed **three** pages of typed text, using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point Times New Roman font. No need to use a cover page for commentaries but each assignment will require a title that will reflect the scope of the assignment. The assignments are submitted on the Moodle.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS:

Jacquetta Newman, Linda A. White and Tammy Findlay (2020): *Women, Politics, & Public Policy: The Political Struggles of Canadian Women*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

If the students would like to have a hard copy of the text, there is one in Yukon University Library reserve. One can borrow it from the library for no more than 3 hours at a time.

For E-Text, click the link below:

E-Text: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/social-problems-in-a-diverse-society-fourth-diana-kendall-edward-g-v9780134477954>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at

www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

www.yukonu.ca

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

| | | |
|--------|---|------------------------|
| Week 1 | <p><i>COURSE INTRODUCTION AND KNOW-YOUR- SYLLABUS</i> Chapter 1: Introduction a. Feminism: What is in a Name? b. Gender and the social construction of women and womanhood c. What is “public” and “private?”</p> <p>Conclusion: Feminism, post-feminisms and intersections.</p> | In class participation |
| Week 2 | <p>Chapter 2: Modern Feminist Theory a. Sister, can you paradigm? b. Theorizing about women: a modern history</p> <p>Conclusion: From sameness to difference, from ideas to the body</p> | In class participation |
| Week 3 | <p>Chapter 3: Contemporary debates in feminist theory a. Difference feminism b. Identity politics c. Postmodern feminism</p> | In class participation |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>d. Intersectionality</p> <p>Conclusion: Global solidarity</p> | |
| Week 4 | <p>Chapter 4: The Women's Movement in Canada</p> <p>a. What is a social movement</p> <p>b. Generational waves</p> <p>c. The Canadian women's movement</p> <p>Old waves, new waves and the million women's march</p> | In class participation |
| Week 5 | <p>Chapter 5: Contextualizing policy change</p> | In class participation |
| Week 6 | <p>Chapter 6: Women's participation in formal politics</p> <p>a. Women as representatives</p> <p>b. Quality versus quantity</p> <p>c. Barriers to women's success in achieving elected office</p> <p>Conclusion: the problems of supply and demand</p> | In class participation |
| Week 7 Feb. 17-20 Feb. 21 | <p>Reading week, no class</p> <p>Heritage day, no class</p> | <p>Assignment 1 due February 16 by 11.59 pm on the Moodle</p> |
| Week 8 | <p>Chapter 8: Production, reproduction and women's bodily autonomy</p> <p>a. Government regulations of reproduction</p> <p>b. Abortion</p> <p>c. Restrictions on reproductive rights</p> <p>d. Regulating the making of families</p> <p>e. Assisted reproduction: feminists and the government</p> <p>f. Challenges for pro-choice feminists</p> | In class participation |
| Week 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIDTERM, MARCH 5 • 9-11.30 AM • IN-class • 25% of the total weight | Students will bring their own laptops to write the midterm and |

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| | | submit online in the Moodle |
| Week 10 | Chapter 8 contd. Production, reproduction and women's bodily autonomy | |
| Week 11 | Chapter 9: Pin money, McJobs and glass ceilings a. The story of women's work in Canada b. Between and rock and hard place c. The grounds of economic inequality d. The value of stay-at-home mother Gender roles and wage gap | In class participation Assignment 2 due March 23 by 11.59 pm on the Moodle |
| Week 12 | Chapter 10: Challenging market rules and balancing work and family a. A history of workplace based policy change b. Anti-discrimination, equity and equality c. Balancing work and family life Conclusion: what is to be done? | In class participation |
| Week 13 | Chapter 12: Canada in the world a. Gendering international relations b. Women's advocacy in the international systems c. Women's issues in global politics Continuing struggle for inclusion and recognition | In class participation |
| Week 14 | Summary of the term | Assignment 3 due April 6 by 11.59 pm. On the Moodle. |
| Week 15 | Final exam, April 9 (class time) | Moodle exam 30% of the total weight |